

REMARKS

The Examiner requested that Applicant check the specification for appropriate arrangement thereof. After checking the specification, Applicant believes it would be helpful to add a description of a prior art patent 4,829,529, which has been done. This patent was referenced in Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement previously.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-14, 18, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102, as anticipated by Hakimi. The Examiner rejected claims 15, 16, 17, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Hakimi.

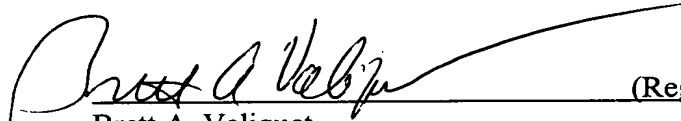
Claim 9 distinguishes over Hakimi for the following reasons. Claim 9 recites in the environment of a method for reducing pump light in an exit of a fiber laser formed of a fiber core surrounded by an inner fiber portion which in turn is surrounded by a sheath, a last section of the fiber laser preceding a light exit for laser light thereof has at least a portion of the sheath not provided. As shown in Applicant's Fig. 1, this reduces pump light at the exit since that pump light can leave the fiber where a portion of the sheath is not provided. This is shown in Fig. 1 by the arrows preceding through the thin portion of the sheath, or where no sheath is present. In Hakimi, an optical fiber laser is described having filter means 18, 20 of the light input and the light output. The end section 18 at the light output is a mirror combination called "etalon" for modifying the gain cavity resonant characteristics and intensity modulation. The end section 20 at the light input is used to alter gain cavity effective length to tune and frequency modulate (column 1, lines 60-68; column 4, lines 48-60, and claim 1).

There is no disclosure in Hakimi, however, of reducing the pump light exiting at the end of the fiber laser. Hakimi does not show any removing or thinning of the outer sheathing of the fiber laser at a section in the range of the light exit. The filter means 18, 20 of Hakimi certainly does not show this, and this filter means 18, 20 does not reduce pump light.

Dependent claims 10-15 distinguish at least for the reasons claim 9 distinguishes and also be reciting additional method steps which in combination with claim 9 distinguish.

The apparatus claim 16 and method claim 20 distinguish in a manner somewhat similar to claim 9 by also reciting that at a last section of the fiber laser leading to a light exit for laser light the sheath is at least partially removed. As noted above, Hakimi shows nothing like this. Thus, not only are claims 16 and 20 allowable but so are dependent claims 17-19 depending from claim 16.

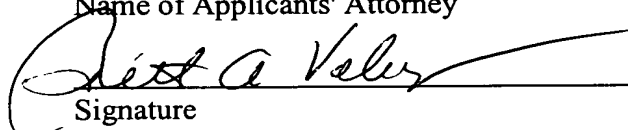
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D. C. 20231 on October 31, 2001.

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Signature

October 31, 2001
Date